Extracted from "THE NEW AGE",
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Do not keep the alabaster boxes of your kindness and tenderness sealed up until your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness, speak approving, cheering words while their hearts can be thrilled and made happier. The kind things you mean to say when they are dead and gone, say before they are gone. The flowers you mean to send for their coffins, send now to brighten and sweeten their homes before they leave them. If my friends have any alabaster boxes laid away, full of fragrant perfumes of sympathy, good will and affection, which they intend to break over my dead body, I would prefer they would bring them out in my weary and troubled hours and open them, that I may be refreshed cheered and made better while I need them I would rather have a plain coffin without a flower, a funeral without an eulogy, than a life without the sweetness of love and good will. I Let us learn to anoint our friends beforehand for their burials. Postmortemkindness does not cheer the burdened spibit flowers on the coffin cast no fragrance back over the weary way. Remember we travel the foad of life but once let us all try to make the world better by our having lived.

Make The Most Of Your Life.,
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We have all been exposed to masonic philosophy in various degress, some of which we can remember and some which is beyond us. Let us refresh our memory with some philosophy thaught in Masonry, and some which, while perhaps not specifically written in Masonic texts, will parallel that which we hold close in our hearts.

In masonry, one of the things we have learned is that "KNOWLEDGE" is the most genuine and real of human treasures, for the light. Knowledge is the seed, which has in it the power to grow, as the seed develops into the shoot, the plan and the tree. We xgain in knowledge that our influences shall survive us, and not merely that our names shall be remembered but rather that our works shall be read, our acts spokem of , as evidence that those influences live and control a portion of mankind. This is the aspiration of the human soul.

To learn, to attain knowledge, is a necessity for every truly noble soul, To teach, to communicate that knowledge, to share that wisdom with the needy, is equally the impulse of a noble nature, and the worthiest work of man.

To Learn and Do. This is the soul's work here below.

Socrates said "Whome, then, do I call educated? first those who control circumstances instead of being mastered by them, whose who meet all occasions manfully and act in accordance with intelligent thinking, those who are honorable in all dealings, who treat good naturedly persons and thinks that are disagreeable and furthermore, those who hold their pleasures under control and are not overcome by misfortune, finally, those who are not spoiled by success."

We think, at the age of twenty, that life is much too long for that which we have to learn and do and that there is an almost fabulous distance between our age and that of our grandfather, But when, at the age of sixty, if we are fortunate enough to reach it, we are halt and look back along the way.

We find that we have made life much too short, and thrown away a huge portion of our time. We deduct from the sum total of our years the hours that we have needlessly passed in sleep, the working hours each day, the days that we have disspated, the hours worse than wasted in follies, or misspent in useless and unprofitable pursuits. We acknowledge, with a wigh, that we could have learned and done, in half a score of years well spent, and more than we hace done in all our forty years of manhood.

None of us knows how many hours are allotted to him. Make as many of them as possible good hours-hours of achievement, service, enjoyment and satisfactions.

About the only thing that comes to us without effort is old age.

Our situation here upon earth is strange. Each comes for a short visit, seeming to divine a purpose. We do know man is here for the sake of other men-above all, for those upon whose well being our own happiness depends and for the countless unknown souls with whose fate we are connected. with whose fate we are

Life's length is not measured by its hours and days but by that which we have done for God, our country and mankind. A useless life is short, if it lasts a century. We may do much in a few years, and we may do nothing in a lifetime. If we but eat and drink and sleep, and let everything go on around us as it pleases, orif we live but to amass wealth or gain office or wear titles, we might as well not have lived at all.

To attain the truth, and to serve our God, our country and mankind this is the noblest destiny of man. Hereafter, and all our life it is to be our object. If you desire to ascend to that destiny, advance~~ix~~ If you have other and less noble goals and are contented with a lower flight, halt here let others scale the heights.

But be careful that you received no wages, here or elsewhere, that are not your due. For if you do, you wrong someone, by taking that which in God's chancery belongs to him, and whether that which you take thus be wealth, or rank, or ingluence, or reputation or affection, you will surely be held ~~x~~ to make full satisfaction hereafter.

He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much who has the respect of intelligent men, and the love of little children, who has accomplished his tasks, has left the world better than he found it, has appreciated earth's beauty, has always looked for the best in others, and given the best he had.

To fulfill our purposes in life requires the firm resolve of a determined soul, will alone is great all things give way before it. The fortunate is he whose purpose never swerves. Even death stands still and waits an hour sometimes for such a Will.

Just remember men's life means tenderteens, teachable twenties, tireless thirties, fiery forties, forcible fifties, serious sixties, sacred seventies, aching eighties, shortening breath, death the sod, God

What Do you Do With Your Life?

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